Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for gathering operational metrics within a grid environment comprising the steps of:

identifying a host, wherein said host is a software object operating in a grid of said grid environment;

associating a ghost agent within said grid with said host, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of said host within said grid;

determining operational metrics for at least a portion of said recorded at least one action;

recording said operational metrics;

moving said host from said grid to another grid within said grid environment; and,

in response to said moving of said host, moving said ghost agent from said grid to said another grid in accordance with movement of said host.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

identifying a location for logging data that is external to said ghost agent; and,

conveying said recorded operational metrics to said identified location.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

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generating test input based in part upon said recorded operational metrics.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said ghost agent is deployed within a production segment of said grid environment, said method further comprising the steps of:

deploying at least one ghost agent within a test segment of said grid environment; and,

recording operational metrics relating to tests conducted within said test segment using said deployed at least one ghost agent.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of hosts; and,

for each selected host, repeating said associating step, said recording step, and said moving step.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for determining operational metrics within a grid environment comprising the steps of:

identifying a transaction comprising a plurality of actions;

executing said actions within different grids of said grid environment by at least one host;

replicating said actions within at least one ghost agent;

recording data relating to said replicated actions; and,

determining operational metrics for said transaction based upon said recorded data,

wherein said at least one host moves from one grid to another grid within said grid environment and in response to said moving of said at least one host, said at least one

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ghost agent moves from said one grid to said another grid in accordance with movement of said at least one host.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said different locations exist within different grids of said grid environment.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, said executing step further comprising the step of:

executing said actions within a production segment of said grid environment.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

determining said operational metrics while actions for different applications are being executed within said production segment.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, said executing step further comprising the step:

executing said actions within a test segment of said grid environment.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

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executing actions for at least one different application to simulate system load resulting from said different applications.

16.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] <u>In a computer system, a</u> ghost agent configured to replicate and record at least one action of a host within a grid of a grid environment, the ghost agent comprising:

an interface for associating said ghost agent with a host;

a ghost log configured to record operational metrics relating to activities performed by said host; and,

a ghost controller for managing interactions between said ghost agent and said grid environment, wherein said host moves from said grid to another grid within said grid environment and in response to said moving of said host, said ghost agent moves from said grid to said another grid in accordance with movement of said host.

17.   (Previously Presented) The ghost agent of claim 16, further comprising:

a ghost identifier configured to identify said ghost agent to components within said grid environment.

18.   (Previously Presented) The ghost agent of claim 16, further comprising:

means for disassociating said ghost agent from said host; and,

means for associating said ghost agent with a different host.

19.   (Previously Presented) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

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identifying a host, wherein said host is a software object operating in a grid of said grid environment;

associating a ghost agent within said grid with said host, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of said host within said grid;

determining operational metrics for at least a portion of said recorded at least one action;

recording said operational metrics;

moving said host from said grid to another grid within said grid environment; and,

in response to said moving of said host, moving said ghost agent from said grid to said another grid in accordance with movement of said host.

20.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 19, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.

21.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 19, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.

22.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

identifying a location for logging data that is external to said ghost agent; and,

conveying said recorded operational metrics to said identified location.

23.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

generating test input based in part upon said recorded operational metrics.

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24.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 23, wherein said ghost agent is deployed within a production segment of said grid environment, said machine-readable storage further comprising the steps of:

deploying at least one ghost agent within a test segment of said grid environment; and,

recording operational metrics relating to tests conducted within said test segment using said deployed at least one ghost agent.

25.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of hosts; and,

for each selected host, repeating said associating step, said replicating step, and said recording step.

26.   (Previously Presented) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a transaction comprising a plurality of actions;

executing said actions within different grids of said grid environment by at least one host;

replicating said actions within at least one ghost agent;

recording data relating to said replicated actions; and,

determining operational metrics for said transaction based upon said recorded data,

wherein said at least one host moves from one grid to another grid within said grid environment and in response to said moving of said at least one host, said at least one

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ghost agent moves from said one grid to said another grid in accordance with movement of said at least one host.

27.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 26, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.

28.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 26, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.

29.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 26, wherein said different locations exist within different grids of said grid environment.

30.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 26, said executing step further comprising the step:

executing said actions within a production segment of said grid environment.

31.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 30, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

determining said operational metrics while actions for different applications are being executed within said production segment.

32.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 26, said executing step further comprising the step:

executing said actions within a test segment of said grid environment.

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33.   (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 32, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

executing actions for at least one different application to simulate system load resulting from said different applications.

34.   (Currently Amended) A <u>computer</u> system for gathering operational metrics within a grid environment comprising:

means for identifying a host, wherein said host is a software object operating in a grid of said grid environment;

means for associating a ghost agent within said grid with said host, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of said host within said grid;

means for determining operational metrics for at least a portion of said recorded at least one action;

means for recording said operational metrics;

means for moving said host from said grid to another grid within said grid environment; and,

means for, in response to said moving of said host, moving said ghost agent from said grid to said another grid in accordance with movement of said host.

35.   (Currently Amended) A <u>computer</u> system for determining operational metrics within a grid environment comprising the steps of:

means for identifying a transaction comprising a plurality of actions;

means for executing said actions within different grids of the grid environment by at least one host;

means for replicating said actions within at least one ghost agent;

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means for recording data relating to said replicated actions; and,

means for determining operational metrics for said transaction based upon said recorded data,

wherein said at least one host moves from one grid to another grid within said grid environment and in response to said moving of said at least one host, said at least one ghost agent moves from said one grid to said another grid in accordance with movement of said at least one host.

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